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Sunshine on a cloudy day
 Jessie and her brother Landon dressed up as a rainbow and a pot of gold to celebrate a rainy Halloween last weekend. For more photos of some favourite costumes, see inside this edition. /submitted by Christine Ramsden

Prefab build approved for Lochlin Community Centre

THOMAS SMITH

 Journalist

The plan for the Lochlin Community Centre takes one step forward.

On Thursday, Oct. 30, Mike Timmins, the director of Public Works for Minden Hills sought support from council to accept Quantum Passivhaus’ bid of \$649,000 plus HST to install a pre-fabricated facility at the site of the current community hub.

The proposed building will be approximately 1,790 square feet with an 850 square foot conference room, two washrooms with at least one AODA compliant stall each, a kitchen, storage, and an aluminum roof.

“There is another option that we haven’t looked at and I think we really need to look at it,” said Councillor Ivan Ingram. “That is taking the old fire-hall down and moving it to Lochlin and thereby opening up some prime land right in the downtown area that we can do some work to draw some people back into our town.”

Mayor Bob Carter reminded council that the price tag quoted likely did not include other expenses such as septic and plumbing. However, Timmins said that it is an all-in price and there is a cash allowance in the RFP if needed.

“We intend to use the existing well, so there should not be any expenses there,” said Timmins.

Councillor Tammy McKelvey asked for a reminder on what was needed for the community centre to be used again.

While both councillors proposed alternative options, staff urged councillors to

finally make a choice.

“We have been at this for 18 months as a committee,” said CAO Cynthia Fletcher. “We’ve gone in circles on this one.”

“Staff cannot do anything more than recommend to you the outcome of the RFP. I do remind you, we have been at this for 18 months,” she said.

Councillor Pam Sayne requested more information on the heating system that will be installed at the community centre, noting the energy savings with a forced air system.

Timmins reported that the septic will likely need to be worked on for the new building.

Carter voiced his concerns with the project.

“I for one have a real problem with \$700,000 for this project,” said Carter. “In looking at our previous presentation on the asset management plan and looking at how our budgets are shaping up in terms of costs for things like OPP and not knowing what funding we are going to be getting from the provincial government, we are going to have serious challenges this year.”

Carter says that if the current Haliburton County budget meetings are any indication, MH will have quite a challenge for their budgeting next year.

“\$700,000 for this, as much as it is nice to have, I’m not really certain that the number of people that it serves is something that the township of Minden Hills can afford right now,” he said.

“I am one vote on council here but I cannot see spending \$700,000 on this. This is way too expensive.”

“Gelert and Lochlin each had a community hall,” said McKelvey. “Gelert’s hall

see CARTER page 15





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MP Jamie Schmale stands with community leader Andrew Hodgson, who was recognized as Highlander of the Year during the Oct. 24 Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce awards. /photo by Darren Lum



Hodgson highlighted as Highlander of the Year

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

For Andrew Hodgson, Haliburton has always been home.

If you've spent any time in our neck of the woods, it's likely that you've encountered something that Hodgson has been affiliated with. Whether it's attending the school that was named for his father, experiencing live music at the band stand in Head Lake Park, or finding your footing in a new home that he helped you secure, he's tied to the community in countless ways.

And for the most recently named Highlander of the Year by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce at their annual awards night on Oct. 24, it's an honour to represent his favourite place in the world.

"We have a really great community," he said during a recent phone interview. "I know some of the past recipients of this award, and everyone is very exceptional. I'm quite humbled and very honoured to be included in that list."

Hodgson can trace his ties to the community back to 1865. And with his mom from Minden and his dad from Haliburton, volunteerism was always on the forefront for both parents, as well as grandparents down the line. "I have all kinds of family members who have been involved in the community," he said, referencing aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents on both sides. "They always volunteered, and I am always proud of our family connection to the community."

Hodgson's dad, John Douglas Hodgson, was the first director of education for the county of Haliburton. He got his start in a humble one-room school house on Harburn Road, where he was invited to teach when he was just barely in Grade 11, recalled Hodgson with a laugh. This is just one of the many examples that Hodgson has that emphasize his deeply woven community spirit.

A spirit he carried with him when he left the community. "I grew up here," he said, noting his years at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, "but I left for 20 years. I had to make a living."

Hodgson worked with the Lindsay Beer Store for a decade before beginning volunteer work with his brother, Chris Hodgson, as he entered the world of politics.

With his small-town charm and quick wit, Hodgson went far in politics as a campaign manager, running leadership campaigns for John Tory and other notable figures before realizing that he needed to reconnect with his roots in Haliburton.

"I was up here every weekend," he recalled, "and I dreaded having to go back to the city. Even when I was gone, I was always from Haliburton."

After 20 years away, Hodgson knew one thing when he returned to home ice: he wanted to make a difference in the community that raised him. Following the heels of his family members and their dedication to giving back, Hodgson chose a number of organizations to jump into. "When I was a kid here, everything good in this commu-

"What I love about this new Haliburton is that there are lots of opportunities to make a living here now. There's something for everyone, and we can do it right here at home."

— Andrew Hodgson

nity was because of Rotary," he said. "So that was the first thing I did. I joined the Rotary Club."

And he never left. He was the president for a chapter, during which time, the former band shell was removed, and Hodgson secured funding and volunteer partners to erect the new facility; a much-photographed destination in the Haliburton Highlands. "It makes me very proud that there's someone using it every time I'm in the park," he said.

But that's not all he's done. He's the chair of the Haliburton County Development Corporation; another board he's been affiliated with for nearly two decades. He's also assisted with flood relief in Minden, the police services board, and the board for Sir Sandford Fleming, to name a few.

"I don't think this was a one-year award," Hodgson chuckled. "I think it's an accumulation of my time here."

Now that he's been back to his hometown, he has no plans of going anywhere else. "I'll never leave here," he said. "I like our community now more than ever."

And as he reflected on the days of needing to leave in an effort to find his footing in the career world, he believes that it's a different world for that now, as well. "I needed to make a living," he said. "That's why I left. But what I love about this new Haliburton is that there are lots of opportunities to make a living here now. There's something for everyone, and we can do it right here at home."

Having been in real estate for 19 years this fall, Hodgson noted that faster internet and phone speeds assist in connecting people to urban centres, allowing for people of all ages to work remotely in a place like Haliburton. "It's really a great community," he said. "There's so many great things happening, and we should all be proud that this is our home."

Because for Andrew Hodgson, Haliburton has always been home.

Diwali in Haliburton

Come Celebrate Diwali!
Nov. 15th at the Haliburton Legion!

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Local businesses 'uneasy' after second string of break-ins

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

A recent surge in break-ins, including two incidents in as many weeks at one location, has local business owners on edge and calling for increased public safety measures.

Kelsey Redman, owner of Redmans Records on Highland Street in Haliburton, said she is now constantly checking the shop's security cameras remotely after being broken into twice last week, describing a persistent feeling of stress and vulnerability.

"It makes me uneasy to the point I'm checking my security cameras when I'm at home," the owner shared in a recent interview. "I just find myself randomly checking and then getting stressed out looking at my shop when I'm away, and just thinking it could happen at any time. Like, is a window going to get smashed? Is someone going to break in another way?"

In an emotional video posted to social media, Redman said her shop was robbed on the evening of Oct. 19 and again on Oct. 21.

"I just want to put it out there that my shop... was robbed Sunday night and Tuesday night," she said in the video. "By the same person, I know who it is. All caught on video, and I've heard that there have been more robberies downtown, so I just wanted to spread the word."

Redman said she provided the security footage to the Ontario Provincial Police. On Oct. 28, police issued an arrest warrant for a 29-year-old resident in connection with three break-ins. The male suspect faces charges of three counts of break

and enter and three counts of theft under \$5,000.

The arrest warrant came the same day police said a cannabis shop on Highland Street was broken into just before 1 a.m.

"The investigation revealed that sometime overnight, one unidentified individual forcibly entered a property and stole a quantity of cash and cannabis products from the business," police said in a press release.

Authorities said a suspect was arrested later that day. Police confirmed to this newspaper on Thursday that the detained individual was the subject of the arrest warrant related to the three previous break-ins.

Redman said the fact that the suspect who broke into her store was a resident challenges the common assumption that property crimes are solely committed by individuals from outside the community.

"I think often people immediately go to who came in from the city who did things, and the last handful of things I know that have happened have all been people who grew up here," the owner said.

Redman said the items stolen from the shop included clothing. She speculated on the motive, wondering if the theft was an act of necessity, perhaps for housing or food, but also noted the suspect's behaviour suggested opportunism.

"I think it's a mix of things. I think he just knew he had time. So he went shopping and looked through every T-shirt and picked out his size," she said, adding that the suspect was a previous customer who was familiar with the store's inventory.

Several businesses said the rash of break-ins had been top of mind for staff last week, with some stores altering how

they close up at night.

"We've switched a few of our practices, just being a little more diligent with how we close up," Scott Swaga of Algonquin Outfitters said. "Just being a little smarter with how we lock up and a little safer, like leaving in groups even."

When asked what might help deter future incidents, Redman pointed directly to the need for municipal-level street cam-

eras. The concern stems from a recent vehicle theft in downtown during lunch hour, where no public video footage was available.

"I just wish there was something in that sense so that there was obvious video proof," she said, noting her personal security footage was crucial in identifying the suspect in the latest break-in. "My video showed everything."



First poppy of the season

Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey received the first poppy in the community on Oct. 31 from Branch 129 Legion President Mike Waller. Poppies will be available across the county until Nov. 11, with proceeds from the campaign going directly towards Veterans and their services. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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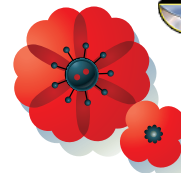
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Minden Community Food Centre achieves national accreditation

The Minden Community Food Centre (MCFC) is proud to announce it has been officially accredited through Food Banks Canada's Standards of Excellence - a recognition awarded to fewer than 200 food banks nationwide.

This prestigious accreditation highlights the MCFC's commitment to excellence in governance, food safety, client care, and community service. The rigorous standards ensure food banks across Canada are accountable, transparent, and continuously improving to better support their communities.

"We are honoured to receive this accreditation," said Jim Wilson, Board Chair of the Minden Community

Food Centre. "It validates the hard work of our staff, volunteers, and community partners who strive every day to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry."

The Food Banks Canada Standards of Excellence provide a framework for improving operations and strengthening the collective impact of food banks across the country. Accreditation signals to donors and community members that the Minden Community Food Centre upholds the highest standards in the fight against food insecurity.

The Centre extends its gratitude to Manager Jean Munroe, Board Member Cathy Hughes, consultant

Greg Lewis, and the Food Banks Canada team for their contributions and guidance throughout this process.

About the Minden Community Food Centre

The Minden Community Food Centre is a vital resource for residents of Minden Hills and surrounding areas, offering emergency food support, nutrition education, and community programs that foster dignity, inclusion, and well-being. Through collaboration and compassion, MCFC continues to address the root causes of hunger and build a stronger, more resilient community.

Submitted

Remembrance Day Services



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Haliburton Legion:

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m.

Short pre-service is being held by the Legion's chaplain, Garry Swagerman, in the Remembrance Hall at the Legion

10:30 a.m. Wreath sponsors may walk in the parade if they so choose, the wreath will be at the Cenotaph for them to lay

10:35 a.m. Parade from the Haliburton Legion to the Cenotaph

10:50 a.m. Cenotaph ceremony

Noon Please join us back at the Legion in the Remembrance Hall for light refreshments and to see the Remembrance Youth Contest entries on display

Club Room will be closed for Remembrance Day

Any person or organization wishing to lay a Remembrance Day wreath, please contact the branch at 705-457-2571, leave a message for Christina Briggs or email rcl129@outlook.com. Cost to sponsor a wreath is \$40 (Lest We Forget) or \$50 (personalized wreath), cut off date is Saturday, Nov. the 8 by 6 p.m.

Kinmount Legion:

Service at the Cenotaph on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.. A free luncheon will be held at the Legion afterwards.

Gelert:

Service at the Gelert Cemetery on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m.

Gooderham:

Service at the Cenotaph on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 3 p.m.

Minden Legion:

The Service will commence at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, November 11 with the Act of Remembrance and reading of the County Honour Roll at 11 a.m., followed by the Wreath Laying ceremony and closing remarks.



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LEST WE FORGET

Arts Centre moves ahead with building plans

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

On their newly purchased property, the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation is moving ahead with their plans for building a world-renowned, multi-purpose arts facility.

In a deal exchange that was finalized on Oct. 17, co-president of the organization, Michael Clipperton, paid one dollar for a 4.5 acre piece of property off Wonderland Road in Dysart. The land was donated by the township, with the stipulation that the not-for-profit organization would have 30 months to navigate planning approvals, with the build required for five years from the purchase date.

On Oct. 30, the foundation hosted a public open house at Pinestone Resort prior to their AGM. The purpose of the event was to garner feedback from the community on the potential build, which is currently hovering with a price point of approximately \$30 million.

"We want to make sure we are proposing a site that is welcome to the community," said Amanda Timmermans, a planner with DM Wills, the consulting firm hired to move ahead with the zoning applications.

Currently, the property is zoned institutional, as it was slated for a retirement home destination before those plans moved elsewhere during a previous term of coun-

cil. The land has sat dormant since, but Timmermans and her team are in the process of rezoning the space to accommodate the large-scale auditorium with on-site housing planned for the land.

The housing component to the site is a fairly new addition to the plans, but Clipperton believes that there would be value to the new addition. "Travelling performers don't have any housing," he noted. "There's nowhere to stay when those performers come to town, so it would be visiting artist housing with multiple suites."

Clipperton also noted additional funding opportunities that may become available if housing is added to the mix.

Currently, the organization is seeking private donors to move ahead, with funding coming from Canadian Heritage to cover the costs for the feasibility study. "We've also had excellent support from Canoe FM, HCD, Rotary, and Home Hardware," noted Clipperton.

But there is still a ways to go before Haliburton County becomes "the Nashville of the North," as one attendee of the open house noted. "This is just the first step in the public consultation stage," said Timmermans. "So far, the focus has been on working with the arts community, but this process will move us into the public consultation step."

And the open house provided individuals with an opportunity to provide some feedback. Timmermans

noted that a few areas of concern surrounded capacity for the sewage system, the water supply to the new build, and traffic around Wonderland Road.

"A left turn lane onto Wonderland Road was suggested through the traffic study," said Timmermans, referencing the turning point off County Road 1 to access the residential road.

The concerns around traffic stems from the site proposing a 400 seat build, and able to accommodate twice the capacity as the current Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. "That's the ideal number from our research," noted Clipperton. "Many touring artists will not play for less than 400."

Step one in the process was the Dysart land acquisition, and they now hover in the public consultation stage. Next step for DM Wills is to complete the zoning application, which will then offer an additional public meeting before heading into council approval for the rezoning. That would then be followed by engineering and detailed design work, site plan approval, and construction of the site.

"I'm hearing from the studies and research that there is a big community need for a bigger theatre," said Timmermans. "This is an amazing project to work on. They have done their research here."

ATAC receives not-for-profit status

In mid-August, many hours of hard work successfully culminated in Aging Together as Community (ATAC) becoming incorporated, and receiving our not-for-profit designation. This will enable us to broaden our base of community support and will offer so many more opportunities for funding, as we move forward into the future.

As a new not-for-profit organization, with a history of advocacy and fostering community connections, we are looking for motivated individuals to volunteer in an area that speaks to your interests, values and those of ATAC. Do you enjoy: event planning? Board Governance, participating in Working Groups? Fundraising or writing grants? To name a few. Not all roles are time intensive and may easily fit your schedule. Our events bring together young and old who believe that aging is an important community discussion that needs planning and finding creative solutions together. If ATAC is an organization that you would like to learn about or get involved in, please call Bonnie Roe at 705-457-6579.

Please join us as we kick off our upcoming fundraising campaign!

ATAC Chili FUN Raiser and Not-For-Profit Celebration

- Sunday, Nov. 23, noon to 3 p.m.
- Haliburton Legion
- Suggested donation: \$20 + or 'pay as you can'
- To book please email atachevents@gmail.com
- Call 705-879-9412 or use this easy Zeffy link: www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/chili-fun-raiser
- Guest Speaker: Dr. Nell Thomas at 1:30 p.m.
- Love, Vitality and Value: The Legacy of our Elders
- Entertainment: Mixed Bag, featuring Dave Bathe and George Porter, and Gary Baumgartner

We have one other important fundraiser coming up on Dec. 2. Stay tuned for more information to see how you can support ATAC.

Submitted

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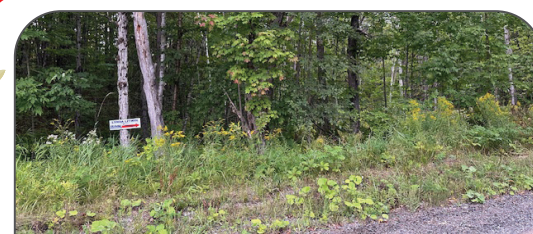
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146 Highland Street, P.O. Box 360,
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705-457-1037

Published by White Pine Media Corp

JENNIFER MCEATHRON,
General Manager and Sales
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

EMILY STONEHOUSE,
Managing Editor
emily@haliburtonpress.com

THOMAS SMITH, Journalist
thomas@haliburtonpress.com

ADAM FRISK, Journalist
adam@haliburtonpress.com

KAREN LONDON,
Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

STACEY POTALIVO, Production

LAURA SMITH, Sales
laura@haliburtonpress.com

www.mindentimes.ca
2 IGA Road, Box 97
Minden, ON, KOM 2K0
705-286-1288



PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
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Real

THIS WEEK, the paper is filled with some very real stories.

And I don't mean real in the sense that they are true and accurate (thought I do hope they are), but rather, real in the way they make us feel.

We are living in an age of artificial intelligence (AI). On every email I send, I am given a prompt for words to write (I refuse to use the suggested texts). On every photo of my kids I send through to a group chat with my book club, I'm asked if I would like to edit with AI (my kids need no edits).

Even in our production of this paper, there is a tool recently implemented through an update that summarizes each and every page, scanning for irregularities.

I don't believe these tech enhancements serve any true purpose other than simplifying the tasks right in front of us. And while some forms of technology are available to streamline our efforts, I don't believe we need others that just dumb us down.

Because in this paper, I see colour, I see chaos, I see rawness and vulnerability and the abstract concept of being a human in a world that's ever-changing.

This week, we have a clown who has dedicated her life to bringing joy to others. An experience on a movie set with lights and makeup and magic. A nod to a local Highlander of the Year, who has spent his life building up this community, brick by brick. A photographer committed to bringing his adventures to life for all to see. Images of kids of all ages dressing up and playing pretend on Halloween.

It's real. This community is real. This life in front of us is real.

And I am constantly discouraged

by the inundation of AI in this world. Perhaps it may seem odd that I have chosen a topic for an editorial that is not directly woven into this paper, but it occurred to me that it's always there, lurking in the background.

Every day I get the email prompts. The push badges to edit photos of my friends and family. The questions around whether something is real or fake.

And I used to be relatively decent at telling the difference. But the bots have advanced, and sometimes even the most trained eyes can miss the signs.

I know I'm not alone. Dr. Nell Thomas will be leading the next Speakers Series on the topic on Nov. 12 at the Fish Hatchery. Our own columnist, Erin Kernohan, writes about it often in her *Humans and Technology* column.

We can't ignore its constant presence. But what we can do, in an effort to fight against the current of

AI, is find the things that are real. The people in our community. A country uniting around a baseball game. Art. Music. Theatre. Poetry. The efforts those around us make during peak volunteer seasons. The feeling of giving back, and brightening someone's day.

Like any new technology, perhaps there is a time and a place for AI, and some advances it can make to simplifying everyday tasks.

But when you simplify life, the nuances are dropped. The mess, the magic, the colour, the chaos. The things that make the world vibrant, different, bold.

Let's not get caught in the current of AI.

We need to go against the grain.

We need to keep creating.

We need to be real.



Emily Stonehouse

Editorial

A lost generation

JONATHON HAIDT'S book, *The Anxious Generation: how the great re-wiring of childhood is causing an epidemic of mental illness*, has been on the *New York Times* top ten list for months. His thesis is that the combination of over-parenting our children in the real world and under-parenting them in the digital world has led to the severe injury of children, primarily by creating the conditions under which children do not develop the skill of managing fear. Gen Z (born '81-'95) are particularly impacted because they were born with an iPhone in their hands, enveloped in the digital world at crucial developmental points. This leads to negative, gender-differentiated outcomes (with, of course, individual variation), but too many Gen Zs crumble, beginning at puberty, into anxiety, insecurity, depression, ennui, and failure to launch.

The irony Haidt exposes is that we over-protect in the real world, which

is as safe as it has ever been, and under-protect in the digital world, which is a lawless land of evil. He draws attention to the dramatic increase in age and decrease in the amount of time when children are supervised as protection from perceived danger. I expected my children to walk to kindergarten alone or with older children; if now I sent my grandchildren of a similar age to play outside without an adult present, I'd likely be having a chat with child welfare officials.

The requirement for children to be supervised increases parenting time, at a time when economic survival requires two working adults per family. The gap is bridged by offering digital entertainment. Increasingly, however, screen time is designed to be addictive and the screen goes from a pleasant distraction to a preferred/

required activity. Three-year-olds scream in frustration when their screen is removed; teenagers hooked to their screens all night threaten drastic behaviour, even suicide, if screen time is denied. (An article in the Oct 25-26 *New York Times* - I'll bet the writers are not parents - suggests parents sit with their teen boys for the average ten hours a week they spend gaming to monitor and educate about the risk of such behaviour. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em?)

The damage to the developing brain comes directly and indirectly. Digital stimulation wires the developing brain in ways quite different than human interaction; the physiological foundation to learning is changed. Then there's 'opportunity cost': because the child is not engaging in other activities while they are on their screen, they are not exposed to the learning offered by human interaction, particularly unsupervised play (which we used to accept as the work of childhood). Essential social skills - attunement (reading others), synchrony (behaving in concert with others), conflict resolution, rule-making, etc. - have no opportunity to develop. Humans have an unusually prolonged dependency because we are social animals, and it takes time and neural readiness to absorb the requisite skills.

The human brain develops most quickly in the first few years of life, and again at puberty. Because puberty happens earlier for girls, they are at risk for harm from digital stimuli at an earlier age. Girls are more socially attuned, so they are differently vulnerable than boys. They are harmed more by social media because they use it more and are more sensitive to visual comparisons (think body image); aggression among their gender tends to be social (think *Mean Girls*); they are more emotionally open; they are vulnerable to predatory older men (who are advantaged by the lawlessness of the digital world).

The vulnerability of boys starts with absence of unsupervised play where they learn how to manage fear through risky play, which would lay the foundation for a discovery mode of learning. In its absence, humans default to a defend mode which is a particularly bad fit with our view of masculinity. Haidt calls this condition fragility, which is both real (they lack the skills to assess and manage risk) and imagined (they believe they lack the skills), a feed-back loop that reinforces fragility.

Fragile boys tend to withdraw from the real world into the gaming and pornography world, both of which appeal to a version of manhood but fail to develop requisite skills. Furthermore, their withdrawal from the real world limits their access to live males who could model and teach real manly risk-management skills.

For both genders, the four foundational harms of digital envelopment are social deprivation, sleep deprivation, attention fragmentation, and addiction. The outcome for both genders, the girls earlier and faster, is mental unwellness - anxiety, depression, body dysphoria, aimlessness and hopelessness, a feeling of not belonging, social discomfort, etc.

It's a sad picture, but not a lost cause. Haidt recommends strongly that children not be allowed an internet-connected phone until age 13, and as is becoming widely considered, that phone-free spaces be created and protected. He suggests we question the assumption of risk in the real world and allow unsupervised play. Of course reeling in the Wild West of the digital world would be a good idea - it's not clear he thinks it's achievable.

Hard as it may be, it's worth doing if we value our younger generations.



Fay Martin

Pair, Ponder

points of view

Interview with a Bigfoot

LAST WEEK this paper did a story about a possible connection between Bigfoot and Haliburton County. I'm happy to announce that I secured an exclusive interview with Harry Largesole, a local Bigfoot whose family has been coting in Haliburton County for several generations.

Here is a brief transcript of our interview.

SG: Hello Harry.

Harry: How are you now?

(We shake hands. I step on his feet, which you can hardly fault me for. They are huge.)

SG: Let's get right down to business. As a rule, your species prefers to be secretive and elusive. Why did you contact me for this interview?

Harry: We wanted a soft introduction to the world. We've been following your career. Having done so, we are certain very few people are going to read this.

SG: Prepare yourself for some hard-hitting journalism.

Harry: Sure, have at it.

SG: Do all Bigfeet have big feet?

Harry: No. I have a cousin who only wears a size 15. He shops in the children's section of our shoe store.

SG: Hold it! You guys wear shoes and have a shoe store?

Harry: Yes. Of course. One of the reasons I'm doing this is to dispel the stereotype of us shambling bare foot though the woods. It is ridiculous and antiquated.

SG: Really?

Harry: Have you ever tried walking barefoot through the woods in Haliburton County? I mean how many big toes do you want to stub?

SG: But what about those famous Bigfoot footprints that people always seem to find?

Harry: We have our hippies too.

SG: And the rest of you?

Harry: We prefer a comfortable hiking boot with lots of ankle support.

SG: Why don't Bigfoot hunters find those tracks?

Harry: They do, but they assume an NBA basketball team made them.

SG: No offense, but something stinks?

Harry: Other than your writing?

SG: Yes.

Harry: It's my foot odour. Sorry. The average Bigfoot has size 32 feet. Unless you use the European shoe size system, then its size 136... Any way you look at it, that's a big space for foot odour to thrive on. It's why we outlawed water shoes...

SG: It seems to me that your entire culture is centred around your massive feet. Is that a fair characterization?

Harry: I guess it is. All our cultural activities are foot-related. Soccer, grape stomping, tap-dancing, bare-foot skiing, hot-foots, you name it. Also, our women look for big feet in a potential mate. Sorry about that.

SG: My feet are just the right size for a small human. Also, I have a great personality and good sense of humour, OK?

Harry: Sure.

SG: Can we move on?

Harry: Why not?

SG: What are the challenges a modern Bigfoot has to contend with?

Harry: Our biggest concern is footcare.

SG: Didn't see that coming...

Harry: Most Bigfoots can't afford a simple pedicure these days. And don't get me going about bunion removal. It's ridiculous...

SG: I suppose they charge by the square foot.

Harry: Very funny.

SG: See, sense of humour...

Harry: Right... Is there anything else?

SG: Some Bigfoot hunters are wondering if you travel inter-dimensionally. Is that true?

Harry: Are you kidding? I just learned to drive stick last week.

SG: I guess that wraps it up. I hope I'll see you again one day.

Harry: Not if I see you first...



Steve
Galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

Vinton Loucks is shown in the early 1940s sitting on his binder, which is being pulled along by his team of horses at his farm located five miles from Minden. On his left are four members of his family: three boys and one girl. /From the *Echo* archives

Love in action

OVER 30 years ago Jim and I had a conversation with our good friend, Anne Creelman, who loves cooking and has always said the most important ingredient in the recipe is love. Cook with love. Add love every step of the way from the moment you start preparing the food until you are cleaning up after.

Jim and I remind ourselves of these words on a regular basis and we have so much good food and love in our lives. Fast forward 30+ years and I am working at Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre for the weekend. A four-day retreat is being offered for people living with cancer and their caregiver. My job is hospitality and I work closely with Esther who runs the kitchen, and a volunteer who comes at each meal to help her prepare.

The participants on the weekend retreat are treated to the most delicious, healthy and creative food. Being in the kitchen with Esther and her team is such a pleasure. They are cooking with love. There are stories, and laughter, and lots of learning. They share recipes and ideas. All of the volunteers love Esther. She is consistently kind, attentive, funny and so caring. The food is sourced locally as much as possible, and special needs are cooked for.

On Friday evening of this retreat, Barb Smith Morrison (executive director of Brooksong) and Thea Patterson (founding member of Brooksong) attended the annual Haliburton County Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala, where individuals, businesses and not-for-profits are given awards to recognize their growth and contributions in our county.

On this particular evening, the Warden

for Haliburton County, Dave Burton, stood to present the Wardens Award where he chooses a person or business or organization that is making a significant contribution in our county. Brooksong was the recipient of this auspicious award this year. Barb and Thea were both completely surprised and stood to receive the recognition.

And in the very special way that Barb speaks, she acknowledged that this award is for every person who is connected to Brooksong. There are so many people to thank. The kitchen volunteers who nourish people with love. Those

who volunteer to iron the sheets and pillows and make the beds. Those who sew quilts for the Warm Hug program that gives hand sewn quilts to people living with cancer. Those who knit slippers and hats and shawls for participants to use and keep. Those who tend the land and the facilities. Those who serve on the Board of Directors and work tirelessly to raise money and awareness to keep the organization growing and strong. The couple who bake pies all year long and sell them to raise funds.

Everyone who participates in and donates to the Haliburton Highlands Challenge each year and raises \$100,000. Every single person who tells the Brooksong story and helps to build awareness. And then the staff who work to plan and lead these retreats. They bring big hearts that listen and are full of compassion and kindness.

It truly takes the entire county to make Brooksong a success. Brooksong is love in action. It is an example of what is possible when there is love in every part of the organization. Thank you to everyone who is supporting Brooksong and for more information check out www.brooksong.ca.

Tales from
the great



Lynda
Shadbolt

Green meadow

letters to the editor

Thankful for local healthcare

To the Editor,

Our family is so grateful for the local healthcare system we have here in Haliburton County, after a scary experience with pneumonia for our two year old. We received nothing short of amazing care, coordination, and support from the doctors and nurses at Haliburton Highlands Health Services (Dr. Devon Tillbrook, RN Derek, RN Carol, and RN Morgan) and paramedics

from the Haliburton County Paramedic Service (Courtney and Adam), as well the whole pediatrics team in Peterborough. We'll be hugging our kiddo extra tight these days, and spent our Thanksgiving weekend reflecting on how lucky we are for so many reasons.

Lauren Hunter, Ingoldsby

Cross-Border crazies

To the Editor,

Ford, the self-proclaimed Republican, needs to stay in his own backyard politically and quit going rogue. He has no mandate to speak on behalf of our entire country. This latest "Trump Tantrum", albeit via Ford's deliberate meddling, should give Carney a re-think on joining the 'Golden Dome Gang'. Reagan must be laughing in his grave - his *Star Wars* dream is coming to fruition. Canada must remain solidly against weaponizing space. Talk about a most dangerous military-industrial complex boondoggle!

The way Carney et. al have secretly been working towards this frightening project without public consultation should be 'front and centre' in the House of Commons. How did he get talked into this? Maybe it should be re-named the 'Con-Dome'! Apparently it's not too hard to 'Con-Carney'. Witness the success of 'Big Fossil and Nuclear' in directing his so-called Nation Building agenda. So much for addressing our climate crisis.

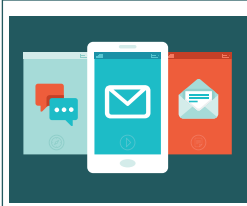
John Gibb
(Environmental and Social Justice Advocate), Minden

Fast Lane Monday Bowling League

The Fast Lane Top Bowling Scores October 20
Women
High Single
Cathy Snell 228
High Single with Handicap
Shelley Makela 265
High Triple
Cathy Snell 654
High Triple with Handicap
Cathy Snell 684

Men
High Single
Jeff Adams 212
High Single with Handicap
Jay Salvatori 307
High Triple
Claude Cote 543
High Triple with Handicap
Jay Salvatori 689

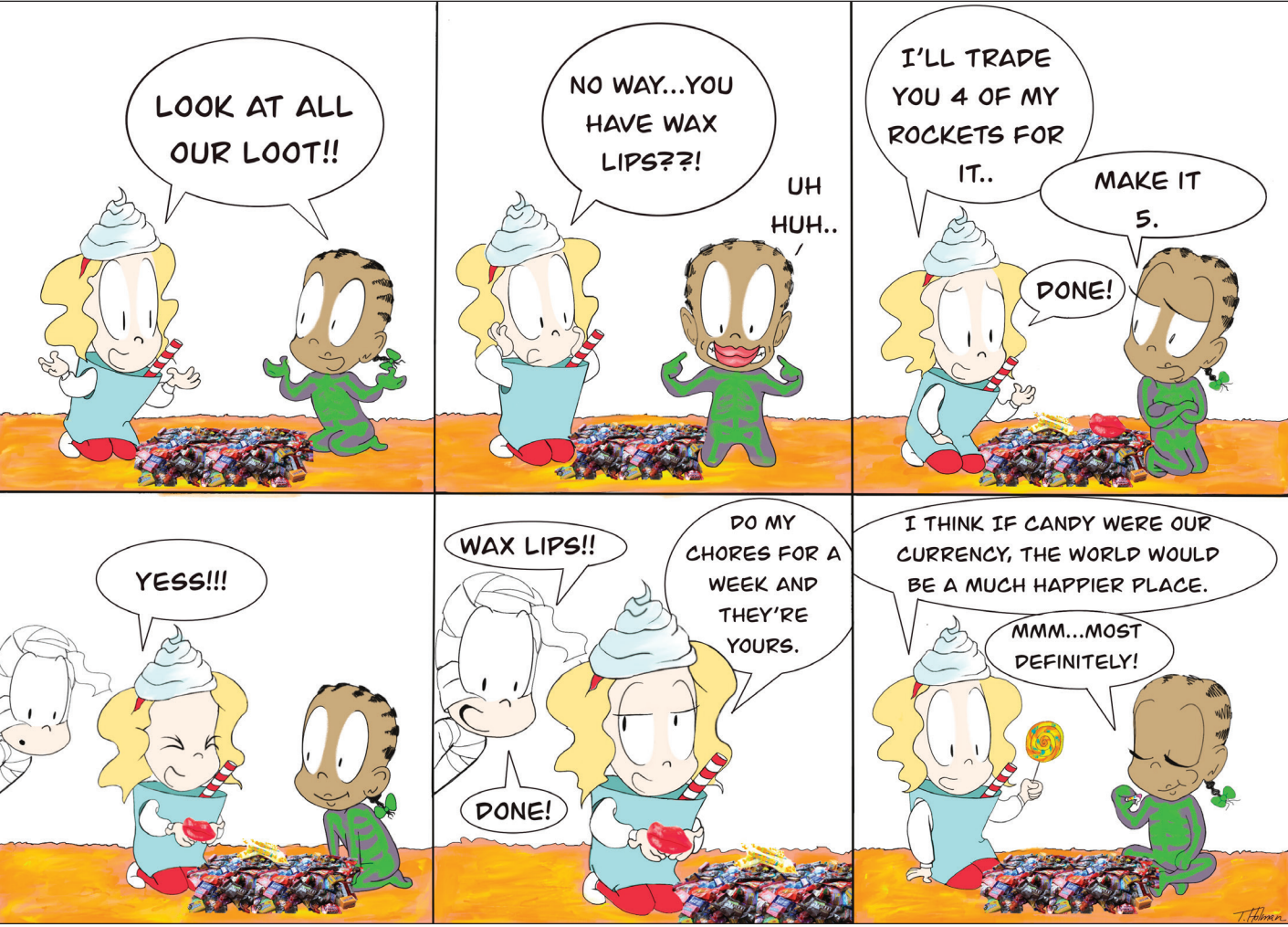
New bowlers are welcome to join.



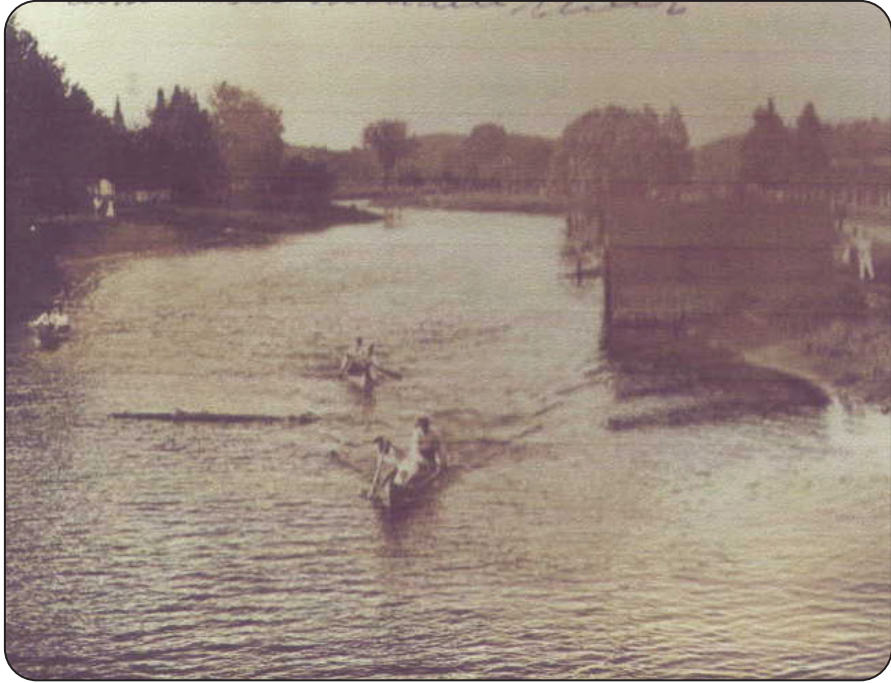
Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com

HALIWOOD NORTH



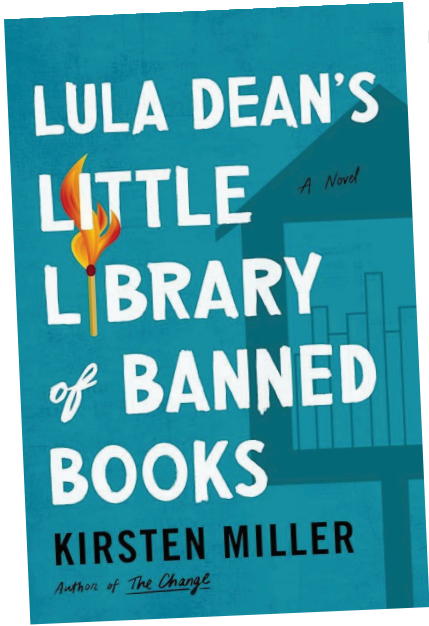
Minden Memories



A photo depicting a canoe race on the Gull River. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultrual Centre



Book of the Week



In the small town of Troy, Georgia, lifelong rivals Beverly Underwood and Lula Dean are once again at odds. Beverly serves on the school board, while Lula has made herself a local crusader determined to cleanse the public library of inappropriate books that she has never actually read. To fill the gap, she opens her own little lending library stocked with what she deems wholesome literature. But when a mischievous local swaps her collection for banned books ranging from Judy Blume to witchy spell books, Lula's neighbors begin discovering new perspectives, passions, and possibilities with every borrowed title, leading to a showdown that will shake the whole town.

Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books by Kirsten Miller is available at the Haliburton County Public Library as a book or Book Club Set. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

Forty years of fun: Pockets' legacy of laughter and artistry

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

For nearly four decades, the beloved entertainer known as Pockets the Clown and face painter has brightened the lives of thousands.

Pockets, who will celebrate her 40th anniversary as a professional entertainer in December 2026, continues a deep family tradition of bringing magic, balloon creations, and face painting to audiences across the Haliburton region after making the move from the Greater Toronto Area a few years ago, prompted by the global pandemic.

"As a professional clown, which is what I was when I lived in Brampton, I wasn't allowed in people's homes. For two years," she said in a recent telephone interview. "So my husband and I decided to retire up in this area."

Pockets and her husband chose the Haliburton area for its natural beauty and hiking opportunities.

"We're hikers. So we liked to hike in Algonquin Park and all the surrounding areas," the entertainer said. "So we decided this was the area that we wanted to come to."

Landing in Wilberforce, Pockets brought her celebrated artistry and family legacy to a new community, which allowed her to expand and create Pockets the Face Painter.

"Face painting is my passion, I love what I do," she explained. "Not that I didn't love being a clown, but to be in non-clown attire, I can be a little bit more creative. I just bring out a different personality than I am when I'm a clown."

"I'm still joyful and fun and all that stuff that I was in a clown costume, but it's a different character in my opinion. And I'm just a little bit more creative," Pockets said.

Pockets comes from a proud lineage of entertainers that began with her father, TwinkleToes, more than 50 years ago. Today, her eldest daughter, Pinky the Clown, also carries on the tradition. To preserve the fantasy for children, Pockets is known only by her professional name, a practice she adopted early on to ensure she's always seen as a "real clown."

"It's a clown thing that I learned years ago," she simply said.

Pockets is among the few entertainers who perform traditional white-faced clown style, a look she maintains in honour of her family. She is quick to differentiate her joyful, professional style from the modern horror movie



Pockets shows her work to a child during ColourFest. /ADAM FRISK staff

trope. Something that proved difficult back in the day, thanks to movies like Stephen King's *It*.

"I had a lot of customers who requested I tone down my clown makeup, or didn't want to hire me because I was a clown," Pockets said. "I had a lot of phone calls that were threatening and very disturbing because people found out I was a clown."

"So it was a very challenging time," she said.

Pockets deploys a simple but effective technique when dealing with fearful or timid children and adults; she allows them space.

"I don't pay attention to them, but I keep my eye on them because eventually, by the end of the party, they will be my best friend," she said, often earning a hug goodbye.

The performer's craft has evolved over 40 years. Pockets now uses professional "split cakes" and a wide variety of tools, a major improvement over the six basic liquid colours and single brush she started with so many years ago. This allows her to create popular, intricate balloon figures, like the in-demand unicorn, and stunning face-paint designs.

While the weekend party volume isn't as high as the relentless three to four parties every Saturday and Sunday she managed in the Toronto area, Pockets is embracing semi-retirement.

"And that's okay by me," she said with a chuckle. "You know, pick and choose one party per Saturday, one party per Sunday, I'm good."

THE TOWNSHIP OF
MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

Tree Lighting Ceremony

November 14th, 2025

6:00pm-8:00pm at the Village Green

Santa Claus



Parade

Come and help decorate the tree, sing some carols and kick off this festive season at the Village Green located along Bobcaygeon Road between Water and Newcastle St.

November 15th, 2025

Parade Start at 11am!

The parade will begin at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, continue along Parkside Street and head south on Bobcaygeon Road, before finishing at the Township municipal parking lot off St. Germaine Street.

Non-perishable food items will be collected during the parade.

For more information visit <https://www.mindenhills.ca/events/>





Jacob Madden and Ethan Towers conducted a paranormal investigation of the Dominion Hotel on Halloween. Twelve participants took part in the investigation, visiting rooms one and four. During the investigation, ghost hunting equipment was used including a dead bell, REM pod, and a spirit box.



A participant takes part in the Estes Method. Using noise cancelling headphones and a spirit box, people in the room asked questions while the listener waited to hear a reply. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Dominion Hotel hosts ghost hunt

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Readers beware, you are in for a scare. On Halloween night last week, paranormal investigator Ethan Towers led a group of people on an investigation to try and catch evidence of paranormal activity at the Dominion Hotel in Minden.

Towers, a Bancroft native, has been investigating cryptids and paranormal occurrences and posting them to YouTube for over a year. With assistance from his collaborator Jacob Madden, the duo have travelled across the province while documenting their investigations. Madden works behind the camera and drives, while Towers conducts the investigation and edits the videos. Madden and Towers' parents were friends and the duo have been close since their childhood, both growing up in the Bancroft area.

"I've always been interested in things that can't be explained, cryptids, conspiracy theories and mysteries," said Towers. Towers says that growing up, he experienced some unusual paranormal phenomena towards him.

He was inspired to create his own paranormal themed content after watching the popular YouTube channel *Sam and Colby*. Sam and Colby explore strange, unusual, and abandoned places and also conduct their own paranormal investigations. The popular duo have been posting to YouTube regularly for 10 years and currently have 15 million subscribers.

"I saw that they were able to go to all these insane places to investigate and meet all the awesome people and have all this crazy equipment without having to have a TV show," said Towers. "They were able to do it all through YouTube."

Tower's channel @EthanTowersYT is fast approaching 900 subscribers. He hopes that having public appearances like at the Dominion Hotel will allow for more investigations, interest from the public, and leads for investigations.

Using his hard-earned money to buy a camera and some paranormal investigative equipment, Towers dreams to make content creation his full-time job.

"I can't imagine doing anything else," said Towers.

Towers' investigations have taken him to contact the spirit of witches in Kingston, hunting for Bigfoot and skinwalkers in forests, and consulting spirits with Ouija boards at home.



Participants filled the room during the ghost hunting session on Halloween at the Dominion Hotel in Minden. /THOMAS SMITH staff

"I'm just trying to go and investigate everywhere I can without having to travel too far or breaking the bank because I don't have the funds right now to travel farther away," said Towers. "But I do love investigating in these areas."

Towers had learned of past paranormal investigations at Dominion Hotel. According to Towers, the iconic hotel is famous for being a haunted landmark in Ontario.

Towers had emailed Dominion Hotel owner Shawn Chamberlin about recording a video for his channel at the Minden site. In response, Chamberlin asked Towers if he would be interested in opening the event to the public, which he agreed to.

"I had seen there were investigations done there before and I thought it would be a very cool experience," said Towers. "I immediately took up that offer because it's such a cool thing."

For the paranormal investigation, Towers brought all your standard ghost hunting equipment including MAG lights, REM pods, emf readers, a dead bell, spirit box, and dowsing rods.

At the start of the Halloween investigation at the hotel, Towers was already familiar with some hot spots in the hotel and the history of past owners, their names, and the names of their children who lived in the hotel.

To begin the paranormal investigation, guests were brought into room number four. People asked questions to get responses from both the flashlights, Rem pod, and dead bell. One participant, a seasoned ghost hunter, even brought his own vintage voice recorder to try and capture any breathing or voices.

Guests were then brought to room number one. After using the Rem pod and dead bell, the Estes Method was used.

The Estes Method involves using a spirit box and two people. One person is blindfolded and has their senses deprived except for their hearing. One person is asking questions with the other person listening for answers from the spirit box. The spirit box rapidly flips through radio channels which spirits can supposedly communicate with.

"They are just saying whatever they hear from the spirit box so when what they say lines up with the questions it's pretty cool," said Towers. "You basically are just turning someone into a tool for the spirits to talk through."

Two participants were used for the Estes Method. During the sessions, words that stood out included 'hell', 'devil', and a response of 'under' after being asked if the spirit was 50 years old.

While one participant was sensory deprived, she said that she felt something sit beside her on the bed. At the same

time, the REM pod was strongly being triggered.

This investigation was Towers' first time leading a public paranormal investigation. The investigation was recorded and will be posted as a two-part video on his YouTube channel.

After the public left, Towers says he and Madden continued to speak to the negative presence in room number one. The spirit they contacted indicated that they were brought in from a guest and decided to stay at the hotel to gain energy from its visitors.

After moving their investigation to the attic, the pair heard footsteps and a constant knocking. He says that other spirits wanted the negative entity to leave.

Towers' dream is to one day be able to visit Ed and Lorraine Warren's Occult Museum.

While the museum is currently closed, comedian Matt Rife and ghost hunter Elton Casteel purchased the home and its contents in 2025 and plan on reopening the museum to the public.

"It has hundreds of demonic and haunted items in it like the real Annabelle doll, the shadow doll and many, many other famous items," said Towers.

Out of all of his paranormal experience, Towers says that a visit to the King George Inn in Cobourg has been one of the most memorable.

Towers says that he could hear loud banging in the basement, where the original nurses office of the former jail used to be. He could also hear a door shut in the hallway. After checking to see if he had disturbed another guest, he could hear unexplainable footsteps rushing towards their door.

"It was pretty crazy, they also still had the solitary confinement door but it was sealed," said Towers. "It couldn't be opened from the inside or outside and when I was in front of it there was a knock on the door from the inside of it that was basically impossible to access."

Towers is always on the lookout for interesting leads for things like paranormal activity, extraterrestrial sightings, or cryptids.

If anyone has a lead that you would like to see Towers investigate, you can email ethan.towersyt@gmail.com. Their private investigation at the Dominion will be posted as the second part to the video.

Holiday magic returns to Abbey Gardens

After a brief hiatus, Abbey Gardens is thrilled to announce the return of its beloved Holiday Night Market on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 4 to 8 p.m. This festive community favourite transforms the Abbey Gardens property into a glowing winter wonderland where visitors can shop, sip, and celebrate the magic of the season.

Following record-breaking attendance in past years, the market is back and better than ever. Guests are invited to stroll along illuminated pathways, explore a cozy, heated vendor tent filled with local

artisan creations, and enjoy festive food and drink from the Abbey Gardens Food Hub and local partners.

Visitors can look forward to:

Holiday-themed cocktails and warm beverages – from cider to hot chocolate and other seasonal sips.

Wood-fired pizza, sweet treats, and café favourites.

Twenty local artisan vendors offering handmade gifts, jewellery, décor, and seasonal treasures.

Exclusive Food Hub finds and festive surprises.

Ambient lights, fire pits, and cheerful music filling the air with warmth and joy.

"The Holiday Night Market truly captures the spirit of Abbey Gardens," said Angela Kruger, executive director of Abbey Gardens. "It's where our community comes together to celebrate creativity, connection, and local craftsmanship – all against the backdrop of our twinkling gardens. The response this event has received in previous years reminds us how much people value gathering in nature and supporting something that gives back."

Admission is by donation, with priority entry for online ticket reservations (walk-ins welcome as space allows). All proceeds support Abbey Gardens' environmental education and restoration projects that help connect people with nature and sustainability year-round.

For more information, visit abbeygardens.ca/event-details/abbey-gardens-holiday-night-market.

Submitted

Arts Council launches new campaign

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands (ACHH) has unveiled new strategic priorities and a community Giving Campaign that will guide the organization into its next decade. The initiatives focus on sustainability, collaboration, and access to the arts for all – ensuring a vibrant creative future for Haliburton County.

Launching Nov. 1, the Giving Campaign invites community members, businesses, and arts supporters to help keep the arts alive in Haliburton County. Donations will directly support local artists, public art projects, and accessible community programs that inspire people of all ages.

"This community has helped us build a rich artistic and cultural identity," said Chris Lynd, ACHH Board Vice-Chair. "We're asking everyone to help us continue that legacy – celebrating our artists, our history, and the creative spirit that defines Haliburton County."

Each of the Council's strategic priorities is shaped with care and purpose, so that, together with community collaboration, meaningful, long-term benefits can be achieved for local arts in our community.

The Arts Council makes it easy to give. Donations - one-time, monthly, or as gifts – can be made online at www.haliburtonarts.on.ca/donate. Businesses and individuals are also encouraged to explore sponsorship and membership opportunities.

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands continues to be a catalyst for creativity, culture, and community - connecting people and ideas that make Haliburton a place where the arts truly thrive. Collaborating with partners on new initiatives and elevating community engagement will be the difference between simply living here and truly belonging to a vibrant community.

Submitted





HALIBURTON VILLAGE SANTA CLAUS PARADE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, 2025 ~ 6:30pm

A Canadian Christmas

True North Strong & Free




BANDS HORSES MARCHER BRIGHT LIGHTS

To enter contact
Jim Frost at 705 457-4031 or
jandmfrost@outlook.com

At the Town Tree, there will be caroling
at 5:30 pm and Tree Lighting at 6:00 pm



Canada Postal workers will be on the
parade route collecting letters for Santa.



REMEMBER - NO PARKING ON HIGHLAND STREET

The parade is proudly brought to you by the Downtown
Haliburton Business Association and the Haliburton &
District Lions Club



Huskies from Haliburton head to Hollywood

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

One doesn't always correlate the story of *Frankenstein* with that of icy tundras and Siberian sled dogs.

But true fans of the 1818 Gothic novel by Mary Shelley would know differently. "I was surprised," said Tanya McCready, the owner of Winterdance Dogsled Tours in Haliburton, "but once I read the book, sure enough, it opens and closes in the arctic."

And this is exactly where McCready and her husband and co-owner, Hank DeBruin, come into the picture.

The big picture. The 2025 version of *Frankenstein* made its way to theatres on Oct. 17, and has been sweeping the nation with rave reviews before moving to Netflix. The passion project of Oscar-winning director Guillermo del Toro, there are already rumblings that the dramatic re-telling of the classic Shelley tale is destined for awards-season.

So where do the dogsled tours come in? With the story-line weaving the winter winds into the film as a whole, del Toro had a vision for Siberian huskies to lead the pack.

"We got a call two years ago at Thanksgiving," recalled McCready. "And we were told that the director was looking for a very specific look of dogs." At this point, McCready wasn't informed which film the huskies would be featured in, but the contact for the scouting was from the biggest animal acting company in the world; having worked on the sets of *Harry Potter* and *Game of Thrones*, to name a few.

The scouts came to photograph the



Hank DeBruin, Tanya McCready, and one of their pups, Angus, shared their story of bringing Winterdance dogs to the big screen. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

pack at Winterdance, working alongside McCready and DeBruin to pinpoint specific looks and temperaments out of their pack of 120 dogs.

By Christmas of that year, they received a phone call. "They told us that this was a go," recalled McCready, "and they said, 'this is a big movie'."

But even with that insight, nothing could have prepared McCready and DeBruin for the extent of detail that went into the magical world of *Frankenstein*.

"We will never watch a movie the same way again," said DeBruin. "Every little detail is noted. It's a real make-belief world."

In January, 2024, the couple were off to Toronto, where filming began. DeBruin had been brought on as the stunt double for the dogsledding scenes, filling in for the main actor, Oscar Isaac. "They had laid out the scenes they needed sled dogs for," explained McCready, noting that they travelled between Toronto and

North Bay, bringing along a loyal team of dogs that ranged between eight and 12, depending on the day.

"I think it was a very surreal experience for the dogs," chuckled McCready, noting one spring day of filming, where the set decorators needed to make snow for a specific scene. The dogs hadn't seen snow for weeks at that point, and hopped out of the car to jump right in and roll around in their favourite climate.

For DeBruin, working on the film was unlike anything he had ever done before. He was dressed in full, traditional period costume, with thick furs and a custom dogsled. But beyond the intricacies of the set and staging details, it was just another work day.

On the first day of shooting, he was asked if he was nervous; "no," he laughed. "It's another day of working with dogs, just in a different setting. They were our dogs, and our dogs respond to their person."

By the time the scenes with the dogs had wrapped, McCready noted that the whole crew felt like family. "They were all just amazing," she said. "It's like we had found long lost friends." She shared that the animals were treated with the utmost respect and kindness, and each dog was celebrated and acknowledged in the process. They always felt supported when putting their dogs first.

While the couple haven't seen the finished product yet, they will be witnessing it alongside the community at the Kinmount Theatre in November. "That's where we were meant to see it," said McCready. "There was so much passion, so much thought put into it. I have no doubt it will be epic."

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KALMIA

Local photographer opens a new door

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Dana McMullen has showcased his work around the world. From the corners of spanning continents to the comfort of Highland Street in his previous gallery, his work has been seen by thousands.

But he's about to make a change. While he has leaned into gallery openings and feature frontage, the photographer is ready for a different pace.

And he's doing it on his own terms.

In mid-October, McMullen launched his mobile art gallery in the heart of Haliburton, with a pop-up in front of Juna Restaurant on the main road that winds through the community. With hardwood floors and built-in track lights, the world-renowned artist brought his art on the road, and welcomed everyone and anyone to visit the temporary exhibition.

"I saw an idea, with the trailer," he said. "I need to bring my art to where the people are."

Within minutes of setting up downtown, the trailer was flooded with viewers. Interested individuals and curious commenters. And while the pop-up was developed with the intent of McMullen gathering his own content to market the initiative, it ended up taking on a life of its own. "We want to share this space," he said. "It can be limiting for accepting artists with traditional galleries. But we can promote each other, we can share each other's social channels, and create that heightened experience."

The slogan on the trailer is: "Art that moves. Feel it. Love it. Take it home."

Each piece in the trailer is available for purchase, with McMullen actively creating a tactile and interactive experience; differing from viewing pieces in an art gallery, where expectations and best practices are often put on display.

McMullen aims to make the experience personal, accessible, and available for all.

With his pieces varying, each one is part of a limited run. Some of his work airs on the side of abstract, with



Local photographer Dana McMullen set up his art trailer on Highland Street in Haliburton in October. He hopes to create a movement where art is accessible and available to all interested. /submitted

intricate close-ups with heightened zips of colour, while others showcase a window into the community; a misty morning on the lake, a spanning starscape seen through a dense forest. He has sold his art world-wide, and ships out regularly, but is now committed to opening the doors to anyone interested in art, in nature, in photography.

He tried round two of the pop-up shortly after his Juna experience, with the trailer setting up at Sir Sam's annual Fall Festival a few weeks ago. "We saw more people in the five hours we were open there than I did the entire

time I had a studio in downtown Haliburton," he chuckled. "It was a huge success."

While McMullen is still in the early development stage of taking art on the road, he's open to partnering, and continuing to develop the idea in an effort to elevate the viewing experience. Interested artists are encouraged to reach out to McMullen through his social media channels.

"I want to create a heightened experience," he said. "Art that moves, taking it to where the people are."

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			799 Sq. Ft.
TYPE		One-storey	
STYLE		Contemporary	
FLOOR		1	



PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant(s): Rodriguez, Obeyesekere & Rodriguez
Lot 4, Concession 3, Kushog Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 4, Concession 3, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 4, Concession 3, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 4, Concession 3, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11148.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **20th day of November, 2025** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: November 4, 2025.

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Skeat
Lot 2, Concession 3, Kushog Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 2, Concession 3, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 2, Concession 3, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 2, Concession 3, described as Parts 1 & 2 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11152.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **20th day of November, 2025** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: November 4, 2025.

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Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
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Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

Minden seeks input

Your input is needed as we continue to shape the future of Minden Hills.

The community provided excellent feedback when we conducted the Community Engagement Program. This was the first phase of the work, gathering important information and insights from the community. We are now moving forward to the next phase which is to develop a Five Year Strategic Plan for Minden Hills.

Your input is needed as we gather priorities, identify opportunities for growth and collaboration in Minden Hills throughout Nov. 2025. We are looking for input from everyone as we develop a Strategic Plan for the future.

Mayor Bob Carter shared “A strategic plan provides a guide to Council. It identifies real goals that are important to all of us in the community. With this information, Council can prioritize resources laying the foundation to achieve the goals and help shape the future of Minden Hills.”

The Township of Minden Hills is working with Karen Jones Consulting Inc., to conduct the Strategic Plan sessions.

- The information we are looking to obtain:
- Clarify community priorities;
 - Identify opportunities for growth and collaboration; and
 - Help develop the plan that will shape the future for Minden Hills.

Our consultant will be gathering information from the community and area businesses. You are invited to share your experiences and thoughts at the following sessions:

- Virtual Community Consultation – Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom - contact lfitton@mindenhills.ca to register.
- Community Consultation (in-person) – Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St.) in Community Room 1.
- Business Consultation (in-person) Friday, Nov. 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St.) in Community Room 1.

Help us shape the future of Minden Hills.

Submitted



PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Smith
Lot 19, Concession 3, Beech Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 19, Concession 3, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 19, Concession 3, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 19, Concession 3, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11153.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **20th day of November, 2025** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: November 4, 2025.

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Bowser
Lot 19, Concession 3, Beech Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 19, Concession 3, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 19, Concession 3, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 19, Concession 3, described as Part 2 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11150.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **20th day of November, 2025** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: November 4, 2025.

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Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Booth
Lot 25, Concession 4, Maple Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 25, Concession 4, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 25, Concession 4, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 25, Concession 4, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11151.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **20th day of November, 2025** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: November 4, 2025.

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

Carter carries concerns over Lochlin hub

from page 1

was taken away. Lochlin's hall was basically abandoned by the township."

McKelvey says that over the years, she has seen many intimate gatherings take place at the Lochlin Community Centre. In addition, there is the baseball diamond right beside the hall available to the public.

"I guess by the same argument, there should be one of these in Miner's Bay," said Carter.

"I want to proceed with this, but I absolutely do not want us to demolish the existing building if we are not going to rebuild," said McKelvey.

Councillor Bob Sisson recalled that it would cost \$350,000 to renovate the pre-existing building. He says that if they cannot afford the price tag, then they should commit to the renovation of the preexisting space.

"In rural areas, we don't have common community spaces," said Sayne "We are trying to increase those community spaces."

"When we give it back to the community, it can be something where they can be renting it out for activities," said Sayne. "So it's not totally just sinking money into a building, it's a resource for safety, building community, and it can also generate revenue as we see different events taking place."

Sayne says that some people have contacted her to see if they can book the venue with its proximity near the rail trail.

"This is a really important asset to our

rural community," she said. "If we start to take away those resources in my opinion, we are not doing any better than we are seeing provincially where schools are being taken away from rural areas. I think we really need to support this."

Carter says that he is interested in building up the community, but questions whether or not the hall would be a money-maker.

"Maybe it is just me but \$700,000 for a community centre in Lochlin is too much for me," said Carter. "Considering all the other needs across the community."

Councillor Ivan Ingram says that he has had community members in the Lochlin area question why they need 1,800 square feet for the hall.

"Why can't we replace what is existing," asked Ingram.

Fletcher reminded council that they have visited this issue repeatedly with different square footage and methods of both replacing and repairing the community centre.

"I would say right now folks, if we are cutting out things that are in the RFP proposal, it is a completely different project," said Fletcher.

"Respectfully Mr. Mayor, you made the comment of 'I'm only one vote' and unfortunately with the strong mayor powers, you could veto our decision," said McKelvey.

McKelvey says that she needs a commitment from the mayor before agreeing to demolish and replace the community centre.

Carter replied by reminding council that they had not voted on the issue yet. If

it comes to it, he is not sure what his position would be regarding a veto, or even if he has the power to veto it.

"I have not thought it through or examined it," said Carter.

Fletcher reminded the council that if this project is awarded, there would be work done following the decision.

"We did not recommend to council, deferring this to the 2026 budget process," said Fletcher.

All councillors voted in favour of awarding the contract of a new pre-fabricated build, with Mayor Carter voting

against.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell was absent for the voting due to a personal conflict.

McKelvey was adamant that due to the threat from strong mayor powers, that the conclusion combined the demolition of Lochlin Community Centre with the installation of the new building.

Carter said that he does not object to the notion that if the building is demolished, a replacement will be constructed.

The bid to demolish the Lochlin Community Centre was unanimously voted yes.



SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on November 27, 2025, at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands, Ontario.

Description of Land:

Roll No. 46 21 001 000 26300 0000; 1295 BUCKSLIDE RD., ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS; PINs 39123-0283 (LT) & 39125-0106 (LT); File No. 24-01;

Minimum Tender Amount: \$42,018.92

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. A full copy of the tax sale advertisement and further information about this matter is available on line at www.OntarioTaxSales.ca or www.algonquinhighlands.ca or you may contact Bradley Bernhardt, Tax Administrator, The Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands ON K0M 1S0, Phone: 705-489-2379 Ext. 323 Email: bbernhardt@algonquinhighlands.ca



Remembrance Day is a time to Respect Reflect Remember

On November 11, at 11 a.m.
we observe two minutes of silence to show gratitude
for the courage and sacrifice of our veterans.

For more ways to remember or to learn more, visit
ontario.ca/remember



The Poppy Design is a registered trademark of The Royal Canadian Legion (Dominion Command) and is used under licence.



Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Mike Waller, president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton, poses for a photo on Oct. 30.
/ADAM FRISK staff



Mike Waller: The heart of Haliburton's community

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

Mike Waller is a man whose life has become intricately linked with Haliburton, a community he's chosen to make his own.

From afar, you might see him as the dedicated president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton, but that title only scratches the surface of a deeply committed, family-oriented man who lives by the simple principle of "help your neighbour."

Sitting at a table in the Legion and sipping a glass of water, Waller explained that his roots weren't initially in the Haliburton Highlands. He came from the hamlet known as Mitchell's Corners, in the municipality of Clarington, ON. The connection to the region began decades ago.

"Full-time since 2016, part-time since 1992," he explained.

It was Loon Lake that lured Waller. The Legion president explained that his beloved wife, Cheryl, had a family cottage nearby in Apsley, and the family would often travel through Haliburton to drop their daughters off at the nearby Girl Guides camp.

"We used to travel past Loon Lake Road, Loon Lake, and we always thought that was a beautiful lake," he recalled.

After Cheryl's parents died, the Wallers found their own piece of paradise there, a cottage that would become their permanent home.

The Wallers are the proud parents of three grown children, two daughters and a son, whose Oshawa-area upbringing now sees them visiting their own active grandkids: a high-level diver, a dirt bike racer, and soccer players. It's clear that while Haliburton is their home, their family remains a deep-rooted focus in

their lives.

Waller's devotion to the Royal Canadian Legion is a cornerstone of his identity, a commitment born from family legacy and a profound sense of gratitude.

"My father was in World War II, and I had an uncle, uncles that were in World War II, and I had another uncle who was in, he flew fighter jets in the Korean War and Vietnam," he explained.

He said he had always been interested in the Legion but didn't join until later in life, after retiring and moving to Haliburton.

"But I always appreciated what the veterans have done for us," Waller said. "If it wasn't for what they did, what they stood up for, we wouldn't be here having the freedom and peace that we have. So that's always been a forethought in my mind."

"So that's what's driven me here," he shared.

His trajectory within the Legion was rapid. Waller said it started simply as "just coming to play darts." Then he served as a sports officer, then bar manager, until finally, three years ago, "the president's job came up and nobody else wanted it." He's now serving his third consecutive one-year term. But, he's not one to work alone, so he convinced Cheryl to take on the rentals for the branch, turning their volunteer work into a shared venture that keeps them both busy.

As for Haliburton and the Legion itself, Waller's mission is clear: community and family.

"If we help the community, we help the veterans, and if we help our veterans, we're helping our community," he said. "So it all works hand in hand. It's family. That's what it means to me."

When asked what keeps him going, Waller's answer was immediate: the community and the ability to help his veterans, giving back to them for what they've done "worldwide... what they stood up for."

Waller's dedication comes with a desire to see all service acknowledged. While he cherishes the memory of

the veterans of the Great Wars, he said he feels a keen frustration with the lack of support and recognition for modern-day veterans.

"They need to be thanked," he insisted.

His emotion was palpable as he recalled the Highway of Heroes, a strip of Highway 401 in southern Ontario dedicated to the fallen.

"It was nice to see the amount of people who stood on bridges and acknowledged the gift of their life to what they stood for," Waller said. "I think we need to carry that forward."

Beyond his official role, Waller and his wife are often seen around the village pitching in wherever they can. Following a violent storm this summer that saw the destruction of several tents set up at Head Lake Park ahead of the arts festival, the Wallers were among the first on scene to lend a hand with the recovery efforts.

When simply asked why they dedicated themselves to helping the community in times of need, Waller chalked it up to age.

"Why? I don't know," he said with a chuckle. "We've always, I don't know if it was the age we grew up in, it's always help your neighbour, right? And it seems to have lost its way over the last little bit. Hopefully, we can bring that back."

When asked whether he was the type of person who would give the shirt off his back to someone in need, Waller quipped that his big shirt could probably clothe "two or three people."

"If somebody needs my help, I'm more than willing to give it," he said.

As he looks toward the next five to 10 years, he's not slowing down. Waller plans to keep running the Legion, as the work keeps him "involved and keeps my mind active." And the appreciation he receives from the veterans and from the community is all the reward he needs.

"It's good for the heart," he said. "Good for the soul."

Share the Warmth: Thank you, Haliburton County and North Hastings County

Once again, the people of Haliburton County have shown just how caring and generous our community can be. Because of your incredible response to SIRCH's Share the Warmth campaign, donation bins across the county overflowed with coats, boots, hats, mittens, and scarves for men, women and children - all ready to bring comfort and dignity to neighbours who need them most. Now, it's time to share that warmth

If you - or someone you know - could use quality win-

ter gear, please come to one of our Free Winter Gear Giveaway Events. Everyone is welcome, no questions asked.

Minden - St. Paul's Anglican Church, Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Haliburton - SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, Sunday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bancroft - Thrift Warehouse, Saturday, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

With your help, we're making sure no one faces winter unprepared. Together, we're proving that when our community comes together, kindness keeps us all warm.

For more information, call SIRCH Community Services at 705-457-1742 or visit www.sirch.on.ca.

Submitted

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EXHIBITION PLACE, TORONTO



HALLOWEEN AROUND THE COUNTY



Staff from Dysart et al went all in for their annual Halloween costume contest. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff



Baby Lisa was very excited for her first Halloween. /submitted



Skylet and Sean Bacon dressed up for Halloween. /submitted



Sky dressed up as Mal from the Descendants for Halloween. /submitted



Hadley Ryckman as a witch. /submitted



The Moratz family made spooky scarecrows to celebrate the occasion. /submitted



HALLOWEEN AROUND THE COUNTY



Trick or treaters explored Extendicare in Haliburton as residents handed out candy to eager visitors. The indoor event was a welcome reprieve from the rainy and snowy evening. /TIM YANO staff photographer



The annual Halloween witch dance on Pine Street took place on Friday evening. Despite the pouring rain, Julie Barban, the mastermind of bringing the witch dance to Haliburton and adapting the choreography from the original German version, Tiffany Howe, Melissa Tong, and Jackie McChesney danced as trick-or-treaters made their way around the neighbourhood. /ADAM FRISK staff

Christmas Toy & Food Drive 2025

Join the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association and help us to make a difference!

As the Christmas season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

Option 1: Call - text 705-457-6901, email info@hchba.ca in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts. We will take them to the local distribution centers.

Option 2: Drop off your gifts at one of our partners. We will then pick up from there.

Minden and Haliburton:

Ridgewood Ford Sales Ridgewood Ford Emmerson Lumber Ltd.

Drop off for gifts December 12th

HCHBA Keystone Sponsors

Dance and Indian cuisine return to Legion for Diwali celebration

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

Get ready to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness as the Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) hosts its second annual Diwali celebration.

Following last year's overwhelming success, the celebration returns to the Haliburton Legion on Nov. 15.

"It was such a success last year, and after the event, a number of people who either own or work in local businesses said, 'Oh, we want to do it again, and we want to help,'" said DH3 committee member Myra Stephen.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for an evening promising delicious Indian food, dynamic music, and interactive community dancing. Haliburton resident Yasmin Schoenke will perform both Indian and African dance, then lead the crowd in an interactive dance session.

"There's a dance called Garba that uses sticks. And so Yasmin is busy making sticks so that we can have the community up and involved in dancing with them," she said.

The evening will kick off with an opening ceremony and a brief explanation of how Diwali is a celebration of light, community, and happiness. Professional DJ Karim Khimji of Safari Sounds will be spinning the tunes to get everyone up on their feet and dancing. As for the food, a simple but authentic meal from Masala Kraft in Lindsay will be served, featuring raved-about dishes like matar paneer, dal, butter chicken, rice, naan, and gulab



Harsha Manani dances during last year's Diwali celebration. /FILE

jamun for dessert.

Diwali, often called the Festival of Lights, is a major celebration rooted in

unity, love, gratitude, and new beginnings.

"It was well-received. Everybody had

fun," Stephen said of last year's event.

Stephen said the event serves as an opportunity to bring people of different backgrounds together and celebrate the cultural diversity present, though not always visible, in the Haliburton community.

"People are celebrating, but you just don't necessarily see it," she said. "And what was wonderful about the celebration last year was that we could celebrate together."

The idea for the event originated from DH3 committee member Harsha Manani, who runs the Lakeview Motel with her uncle, after a conversation with fellow member Jim Blake. Harsha, who grew up celebrating Diwali in England, suggested the celebration as a way to connect with local people and offer a unique cultural experience, much like previous DH3 events such as a Salsa Night and a Kolo-myika (Ukrainian dance) fundraiser.

"The great part was the mix of people. There were people there that were coming because they were getting a meal that was free for their kids," Stephen explained. "And there were people who were coming because they wanted to wear their saris and dance."

Tickets for the Diwali celebration can be purchased online at dancehappenshere.com or in person at Redmans Records. It's \$40 for adults, \$20 for college/university students and free for those under 18 years old.

DH3 is a volunteer-run group and part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, dedicated to bringing diverse dance experiences to the region.

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HHHS women's health clinic brings care closer to home

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is proud to highlight the success of its Women's Health Clinic in bringing specialized care closer to home for individuals across the region. By improving access to women's health services, the clinic is helping to ensure better health outcomes and a stronger continuum of care for patients living in and around the Haliburton Highlands.

This June, the clinic hosted its first Papapalooza event, completing 25 HPV tests for both attached and unattached patients – a key milestone in enhancing access to preventative screening. The next Papapalooza event is already scheduled for Dec. 16, offering another opportunity for residents to receive timely and essential care.

"We know that women across northern and rural Ontario often face long wait times or must travel great distances to receive care," said Dr. Mark, a physician at the Women's Health Clinic. "Our goal is to reduce those barriers by providing compassionate, comprehensive care right here in the community – so our patients can get the help they need without leaving home."

Since opening, the clinic has welcomed patients from as far away as Huntsville, drawn by both its accessibility and its commitment to patient-centred care. Many patients have expressed gratitude for the clinic's efficient scheduling and ability to provide same-day procedures – such as colposcopies – during their initial consultations. The clinic's patient-first model and timely follow-up have earned widespread appreciation. Feedback often highlights the compassionate care, short wait times, and the reassurance that comes from having a dedicated women's health service available locally.

"Having this kind of specialized care close to home means so much to our



patients," said HHHS Interim President and CEO Jennifer Burns West. "It's another example of how we're working to strengthen access to healthcare in the Highlands – helping our residents stay healthy, supported, and connected to care within their own community."

The Women's Health Clinic continues to grow as part of HHHS's commitment to bringing care closer to home, reducing the need for travel, and ensuring that every patient receives timely, high-quality, and compassionate care.

Submitted

Telling our Stories speakers series

The *Telling our Stories* Speakers Series is delighted to have Dr. Nell Thomas join us on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Fish Hatchery on the Gelert Road. Dr. Thomas' presentation is titled *The New World of A.I.: How to Know What is Really Real*. Her talk will explain A.I. wizardry, contemplate its radical influence, and consider the following questions: What guardrails should exist for A.I., how can social media be held accountable, how can we protect ourselves and what do we need to know, and do, if we suspect fraud?

Dr. Nell Thomas has a Master of Clinical Science degree, is a Medical Doctor and has been a member of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team since 2013. She has also authored two local newspaper series and was a candidate in the recent Federal Election.

Tickets are \$15 and pre-registration is highly recommended. To obtain tickets, contact Barrie Martin at 705-457-7557 or by email at barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com

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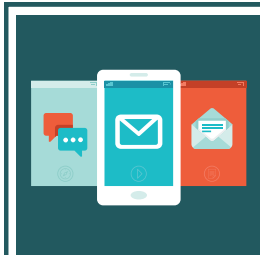
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		9			3	8	7	
			5					
7						3		
		5			2		1	9
				1			3	
		6	9				5	
8		4						
	5	7	2		8		6	
1	2				6			

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 23

	1	2	3	4				5	6	7	8	
9					10			11				12
13						14		15				
16				17			18					
19			20		21						22	
	23			24		25					26	
		27			28		29			30		
			31			32		33				
		34					35		36			37
	38				39			40		41		42
43					44			45		46		47
48			49	50					51		52	
53								54			55	
56									57			
	58									59		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Difficult

5. Coarsely ground corn

9. There’s one for the “world”

11. Loved Romeo

13. Sticky situation

15. Pelvic areas

16. An informal debt instrument

17. Cannot be repaired surgically

19. A device attached to a work-bench

21. Related on the mother’s side

22. Sound unit

23. ___ Sagan, astronomer

25. Utah city

26. A disappointing effort

27. Steal goods during a riot

29. Wakes up

31. Hair salon service

33. Serenaded

34. Looked intensely

36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.

38. A type of cast

39. One’s duty

41. Where golfers begin

43. Make a mistake

44. Semitic sun god

46. Ancient Greek City

48. Having had the head cut off

52. A place to stay

53. Unwise

54. Most unnatural

56. Dennis is a notable one

57. Ointments

58. Students’ exam

59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

1. Brave

2. Act of awakening

3. Jest at

4. Sandwich store

5. Chapter of the Koran

6. Dismounted

7. Small vehicle

8. Irked

9. One who earns by disreputable dealings

10. Monetary unit of Samoa

11. Long, mournful lamentation

12. Weight unit

14. Alone, single

15. Decreases

18. Indicates beside

20. Worn by exposure to the weather

24. A body of traditions

26. College students’ ultimate goal

28. Amino acid

30. Nasal mucus

32. US government entity

34. Swinish

35. Legislative body in Russia

37. Grant an exemption to

38. Put in advance

40. Satisfy

42. Felt

43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

45. Witnesses

47. Picnic invaders

49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

50. Ancient person of Scotland

51. Cheerless

55. Unwell

Answers on page 23



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	P	M	V	S					D	R	V	A	H

SUDOKU SOLUTION

5	4	9	1	2	3	8	7	6
6	3	2	5	8	7	9	4	1
7	8	1	4	6	9	3	2	5
4	7	5	8	3	2	6	1	9
2	9	8	6	1	5	4	3	7
3	1	6	9	7	4	2	5	8
8	6	4	3	5	1	7	9	2
9	5	7	2	4	8	1	6	3
1	2	3	7	9	6	5	8	4



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E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.

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OBITUARIES



Helen Mills
Resident of Haliburton

It is with great love and the appreciation of a life very well lived that we announce the passing of Helen Mills on October 27, 2025. She passed away very peacefully at Highland Wood, Haliburton, in her 101st year.

Helen was predeceased by her beloved husband of 69 years, John Mills, and is survived by her children, Coulie, Doug, Karen, and Liz (Bruce), as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and grand-dogs.

Helen was raised in St. Thomas and Windsor but lived her married life in Etobicoke with summers at Haliburton Lake. She enjoyed bridge with her special group and had an incredibly artistic eye, whether it was fashion, interior design, art, or culture. She was an avid reader and enjoyed the theatre and film. John's career allowed them to travel

extensively, and she took full advantage of each destination to see some incredible sites. Well into her 90s, Helen's favourite places were Sherway Gardens, or any restaurant!

In the summers, she swam, tended her plants, and even water-skied into her 60s. She and John had a very special group of friends on Haliburton Lake, and those friendships have continued with the generations.

She loved to laugh and had a great sense of humour, and she was also an incredible listener – she looked you in the eye and made you feel like you were the only person in the room. She cared deeply about all those close to her. She was also incredibly kind. She cared about animals, and people less fortunate than she was. Every time she ventured into downtown Toronto, she would take money in a special zippered pouch to give to any unhoused people she came across. She could be overzealous and on one occasion, she pressed money into the palm of an executive that was just outside on a smoke break. She was extremely aware of how fortunate she was and wished the same for everyone.

Helen and John provided a lovely life to their children.

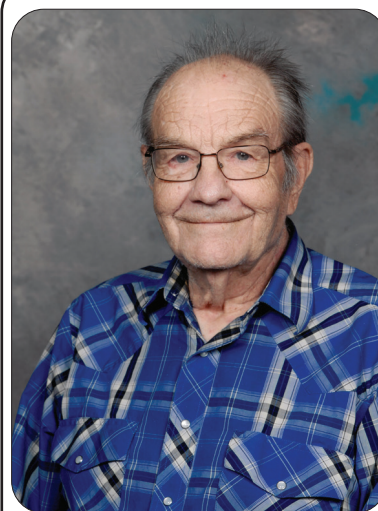
Very special thanks to the many wonderful people at Gardens of Haliburton and, since spring 2024, Highland Wood. They are too many to name individually. All have been so kind and caring. Mom will miss her wine in a Dixie cup that was part of her routine at Highland Wood!

Private Funeral Arrangements



www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Funeral arrangements are private. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation in Helen's memory would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy #118, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.



Barry Wilson

With deep Christlike love and gratitude for a life well lived, the West Guilford Baptist Church family of Barry Richard Wilson announces his peaceful passing into the waiting arms of Jesus our Lord and Saviour on Friday, October 31st, at the age of 83.

Barry was a conservationist. He spent countless hours studying, rescuing, and photographing wildlife. He was passionate about sharing his knowledge and gave many seminars and wrote many stories teaching others. He loved his Tim Horton large Triple Triples, blueberry pie, and a good game of crokinole, which he almost always won.

Barry will be fondly remembered by the many friends he made while being patiently and tenderly cared for by the staff and volunteers of Highland Wood during the past 2 years.

Barry will forever be remembered by all who knew him for his unique personality and passionate love of everything wildlife, especially his first love, the beaver.

Barry was more at home with animals than he was with people, and he struggled when he lost his independence and couldn't spend his time outside with his animal friends. But like his beaver friends who are known for their hard work and resilience, Barry has finished his race and has entered his eternal home that his Father God has prepared for him and is now free to spend his days enjoying God's perfect world prepared for those who have put their trust in Him.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. 118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 on Thursday afternoon, November 6, 2025, at 1 o'clock for a service in the Chapel (Visitation one hour prior). An Interment will take place the following day, Friday morning, November 7, at 11:00 am at the Marchmont Baptist Cemetery in Orillia. As an expression of sympathy, donations to West Guilford Baptist Church, Woodland Wildlife Sanctuary, or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - Highland Wood would be appreciated.



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In Loving Memory of
ANDERSON, Terry

Passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on Monday October 20, 2025 after a short but aggressive journey with cancer.

He leaves behind his beloved wife and best friend of 45 years Nancy Jackson, his loving daughter Jennifer and his cherished grandchildren, Nyah & Kai. Terry is survived by his children's mother Sharon Anderson. He will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, and friends. Terry was predeceased by his darling daughter Jacqueline and his three younger brothers, Barry (Judy), Brian, and Robert (Lou). Terry was born and raised in Ottawa, and later moved to Toronto where he and Nancy had their careers before retiring to Haliburton, where they lived for 15 years until they moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2016. Terry was his own man. He will be fondly remembered for his quiet, reflective manner and his love of nature and the arts. Terry could easily become the life of the party with his intelligent wit and his lively, occasionally quirky sense of humour. Terry had an insatiable interest in learning, especially about the inner soul and where people fit into the universe. He spent many hours reading, studying, and sharing ideas with his online interest groups. Terry pursued many passionate interests throughout his life, including classical music (while in Haliburton he hosted his classical music program on Canoe Radio), stone carving, billiards, the meaning of dreams, and Jungian analysis. Most recently, he devoted several years to the spiritual study of the Tarot, including the Qaballah, and the Tree of Life. Terry loved helping others with whom he felt an intuitive connection. He will be deeply missed. Cremation has taken place. A private family interment will take place at a later date at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. A celebration of Terry's life will take place in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Newark Neighbours Food Bank and Thrift Store at 1534 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



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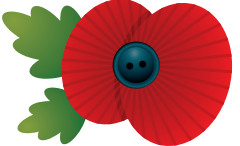
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INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

THE EAU LIST

Oprah loves the same water that thousands of
ABC Valley enthusiasts enjoy

THE LAST QUESTION

From town water to a new municipal office
in Wilberforce, candidates state their views

FROM BOY TO MAN

Bob White had to grow up quickly when he
joined the Canadian Armed Forces in '43

THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006

VOL. 123 No. 43 \$1.25 INCL. GST

Changes make Silver Beach proposal more palatable

GREG HOEKSTRA

Staff Reporter

As their very last order of business, on Monday Dysart councillors took a giant step towards making the Silver Beach Lifestyle Community a reality by rezoning the property from tourist commercial to suburban residential.

After facing a barrage of concerns during last week's public meeting, the municipality worked diligently with the developer to address the bulk of concerns from neighbouring residents, and last-minute changes to the proposal certainly reflect that, Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey told council.

"In particular, the most dramatic change is with the commercial areas, which were the most controversial and unacceptable to the adjoining property owners," said Fearrey. "The developer, in my opinion, was more gracious than most would have been and has pulled those commercial zonings altogether and allowed those to be used as part of the condominium concept."

Originally the plan had called for a total of 39 condominium units, with a section of land to be zoned for commercial uses. What seemed to irk residents, however, was that council was provided with only a list of potential uses (such as a bistro, spa, or massage therapy clinic), which meant council didn't know what specific uses it would be approving.

See **Developer** page 2

Dysart hopes to escape ballot blues

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

A decision to stick with Canada Post for next week's municipal elections may have saved Dysart et al from having to sing the spoiled ballot blues.

While some municipalities have had as many as 25 per cent of the ballots submitted improperly, Dysart's CAO isn't expecting the same problem in her municipality.

Tammy McKelvey says that although council seriously

looked at hiring a company called Data Fix to handle the mail-in ballots, it decided to once again hire Canada Post to provide the service.

Canada Post's choice of envelopes might have unexpectedly made her job a lot easier.

When people receive their ballot kit by mail, they're supposed to fill out their ballot, seal it in the secrecy envelop and then sign a declaration saying they are who they are and have a

See **Almost** page 4

Running for a win



Byron Moore/Photo

It took more than a decade to earn boasting rights, but the HHS Red Hawks are in the running for the Central Ontario championships after Saturday's 7-1 victory over Peterborough's Adam Scott Secondary School. Kieran Gibboly, #96, had the honour of scoring the first point in the low-scoring match. It was a sweet victory since Adam Scott has stymied the Red Hawks' aspirations to advance for the past two seasons. Details on page 14 and 15.

Lack of town water not a hindrance: Fearrey

GREG HOEKSTRA

Staff Reporter

Would Canadian Tire be coming to Haliburton, and not Minden, if only we had a town water system? Or would Tim Hortons be looking to buy prime real estate on Highland Street?

For years some have argued

that a town water system would open the doors to a development boom in Haliburton village, but long-standing reeve Murray Fearrey says that's simply not the case.

"It's absolute nonsense to think that there are businesses not coming here because there's no town water," Fearrey says. "To say that's why there's no

Tim Hortons here or no Canadian Tire, there's just no truth to that whatsoever."

Despite the fact that most water in Haliburton is drawn from wells, Fearrey says that neither the quantity nor quality of the town's water has ever been considered a hindrance by potential developers. Since the village is part of a sewage sys-

tem, and there is very little farmland in the area, Haliburton's water table has maintained a high level of quality without contamination. And there's more than enough of it to go around, says Fearrey.

"Volumes of water have never been an issue in Haliburton;

See **There's** page 2

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING:

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2025, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

Proposed changes include:

- Schedule B Administration – Finance
- Schedule C Fire – Housekeeping changes
- Schedule D Cultural Centre Programs & Facilities
- Schedule E Roads Department Fees
- Schedule F Planning Department Fees
- Schedule G Cemetery – Housekeeping changes
- Schedule H Community Services Programs & Facilities
- Schedule I Environmental – Water & Sewer, Landfill
- Schedule J Community Services Advertising

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON. Members of the public wishing to make comment may attend in person or join electronically for the public meeting regarding the proposed changes. Registration is required for electronic participants.

**COUNCIL MEETINGS
VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON**

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:
November 13 – Regular Council Meeting
November 27 – Regular Council Meeting
Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.



RECYCLE YOUR LIGHTING

Fluorescent tubes and bulbs can be dropped off for **safe recycling** at the Scotch Line Landfill. Keep harmful materials out of landfills — recycle your lights today!

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *Haycock: One Family's Canvas of Canada* will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until Saturday, November 15.
 - Free screening of *Rosies of the North* (1999) on Thursday, November 6 at 1:00 p.m. This NFB documentary tells the story of the thousands of women from Thunder Bay and the Prairies who stepped into Canada's wartime workforce during the Second World War. The film is presented in collaboration with the HCPL.
 - Join the UFO's (UnFinished Objects Craft Group) in the Welch Room on Friday, November 7 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. All are welcome!
- For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

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